

uses the funds to increase aid to college students and reduce the interest rates they must pay on their loans. It halves interest rates on subsidized student loans, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent, over 4 years and increases the Pell grant by \$1,090 increase in the maximum Pell grant award over 5 years. It also allows for a flexible repayment option and loan forgiveness after 10 years for certain public-sector employees.

I am also proud that the conference report included language to fund key Massachusetts Upward Bound programs. Upward Bound provides fundamental support and college preparation for low-income students and has a strong record of increasing the rate at which low-income students graduate from institutions of higher learning. Once the President signs this legislation into law, 187 new and existing Upward Bound programs that scored above a 70 in the most recent grant competition will be funded from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2011. As a result, Upward Bound services will be provided for an additional 12,000 students. I want to congratulate all of the new and refunded Upward Bound programs in my State—Holyoke Community College, North Shore Community College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Suffolk University and Wheelock College. Thank you for providing these necessary services to Massachusetts students and I urge you to keep up the good work.

This legislation is absolutely vital to securing the opportunity of higher education for all and making our country more competitive. I thank Senator KENNEDY for his hard work and vision and I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On the night of September 1, 2007, Josie Smith-Malave, her sister Julie Smith, and her friend Emily Durwood, were attacked outside a Long Island bar for being gay. The three women had been at the bar that night, and, as they left, they were followed outside by three women and about nine men. The group of about a dozen young adults began to crowd around the three women, shouting antigay slurs, throwing sticks and cups at them and spitting on them. The group then began to punch and kick the three women. One of the victims suffered a head injury, another suffered a knee injury, and all three were badly bruised as a result of

the attack. The attackers fled the scene before police arrived, but one man was arrested 4 days later for his alleged involvement in the assault, which included stealing a camera from and injuring one of the women. He is charged with a hate-biased crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA PAGANO MURRAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to one of the longest tenured members of my Senate staff, Mrs. Donna Pagano Murray. Donna retired from the Senate on September 5, 2007, after 28 years of exceptional service to the citizens of this country and to the residents of the State of Alaska.

Donna was born in New York City and studied at Monmouth University and the University of Maryland. She served as my executive assistant and was responsible for all legislative issues relating to domestic aviation and transportation security since I entered the Senate in 2002. She is an expert in Alaska aviation issues and a champion for the Age 60 pilot age extension bill. Donna served as my Chief of Staff for the past year, leading a great team working for Alaska.

Prior to working for me, she worked for Senator Frank Murkowski for 12 years. Among other duties in that office, including those I just mentioned, she was the principal liaison between his Washington, DC and five state offices.

She left the Senate in 1989 and worked at the Department of Commerce for five years during the Administration of former President George H.W. Bush. She handled issues such as clean water and air, fisheries management, weather services and appropriations issues for the Department.

I also want to mention that during her tenure in the Senate, she worked on the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Services and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. She has volunteered for several campaigns and inaugural ceremonies as well.

Donna started her career as a high school teacher, and is looking forward to being a substitute teacher in her post-Senate life. This says a lot about her—that she is returning to the classroom to help children in this area. Rather than seeking a high-paying private sector job, which she certainly is qualified for given her abilities and experiences, she is going to be a substitute school teacher for a local district. She represents the real spirit of public service by giving back some of her knowledge, wisdom and experience gained from decades in government

service to the youngsters of this area. I know that the students will learn a lot from Donna.

While I am sorry to lose one of my staff leaders, I am delighted that Donna will be able to more fully enjoy time with her husband Danny. Danny had a heart transplant last year and I know that they are looking forward to spending more time with each other, traveling together and enjoying their grandchildren.

I will miss Donna's cheerfulness, wonderful smile, straightforward manner, vast knowledge, and her dedication to the Senate. She is a hard worker, indeed. It has been a pleasure to have her on my staff. I wish her and her husband Danny the very best and know that Alaskans will benefit for decades to come from her efforts to help the State. I also know that future generations will benefit from her return to the classroom.

Donna, thank you for your service to Alaska and this country.

THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT JAMES FAUST

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a revered Utahn who was taken from us a little more than a month ago during our summer recess: President James Esdras Faust, second counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On August 10, President Faust peacefully passed away, called home by the God whom he had served for 87 years. He left behind a legacy of faith and service, an example to which we should all strive for in our own lives.

President Faust was a wonderful leader for the LDS Church and a tremendous counselor to its President, Gordon B. Hinckley. He was a great friend and guide to Elaine and me, and our entire family, and to millions of others around the world. He was a person of great dimension, wide-ranging abilities, and deeply spiritual capacities. He was the consummate gentleman and treated both Elaine and me with kindness unfeigned. We pray that everyone in the Faust family will be comforted in the days and months ahead with peace through their memories of this great man.

Beyond his day-to-day duties as a church leader, President Faust led opposition to gambling initiatives in Utah, oversaw construction of the BYU Jerusalem Center, managed an improved public relations strategy for the church, and enhanced relationships with foreign officials. During his ministry, he saw the Latter-day Saint faith move from primarily one of the western United States to a truly worldwide religion.

His kindness was not limited to those of his own faith, nor was his service limited to that which he performed inside his church. Before President Hinckley extended him a call to serve 35 years ago as a senior, full-time

church leader, Faust served his country in the military, served his community as an attorney, served his State as a legislator, and served his family as a devoted husband and father.

A native of a small town in Utah's west desert, Delta, President Faust studied at the University of Utah, eventually receiving both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. But he interrupted his studies when he was called to his country's defense in World War II, honorably serving in the U.S. Army Air Force and earning the rank of first lieutenant while opposing the tyranny of the Axis.

Beyond his service to America, President Faust also gave 2 years of his youth in service to his church as a missionary in Brazil. He was one of the first Mormon missionaries to that nation and by sharing his testimony of the Lord gently moved the first pebbles of what has become a mighty avalanche of faith—today Brazil is home to nearly 1 million Latter-day Saints. Later in life, anytime his church service took him to Brazil he was extremely happy to be reunited with his friends there. In 1998, Faust was named an honorary citizen of Sao Paulo in honor of his lifelong ties to the city and the nation. Only two other men have received this recognition—Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama—which puts President Faust in very good company.

During a short period of leave from the Air Force in the spring of 1943, President Faust married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Wright, in the Salt Lake Temple. The sunrise and the sunset to all his happiness, Ruth walked hand in hand with him for almost 65 years. Together they raised five children: James H. Faust, Janna R. Coombs, Marcus G. Faust, Lisa A. Smith, and Robert P. Faust. They were the proud grandparents of 25 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

While practicing law, President Faust made time to serve as a member of the Utah legislature, an adviser to the American Bar Journal, and as president of the Utah Bar Association. Fellow church leader Elder M. Russell Ballard said of Faust that he "loved America, the state of Utah and Salt Lake City." He was always examining issues and events "for what was right and what needed to be done to see that we were working for the benefit and blessing of the people."

We have lost a friend, we have lost a leader. But we look forward to a time when we can see his smiling, optimistic face again and hear his soothing, uplifting voice. To President James Esdras Faust the people of Utah would like to say, "Thank you for your time among us. It was not nearly long enough. God be with you, till we meet again."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JIM BILLINGTON

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I congratulate Jim Billington on two dec-

ades of service as Librarian of Congress. For 20 years, he has presided over this prestigious institution that serves Congress so well but is truly America's national library. It houses documents and artifacts that date to the earliest days of our democracy and, at the same time, manages the U.S. Copyright Office that maintains an ongoing record of America's creative heritage.

Jim Billington had a brilliant career in the academic world before beginning his responsibilities at the Library of Congress. He was highly respected at Harvard, at Princeton and, immediately before becoming Librarian of Congress, as director of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Throughout his career, Jim Billington has brought a dynamic integrity to the scholarly world. Under his leadership, the Library of Congress was not a dormant collection of books and artifacts. He undertook a new initiative to digitize its collections and make them more accessible and more permanent. He also established the Madison Council to bring outside support and wise counsel to the Library, and created a center for advanced scholars in the humanities.

His tenure as Librarian is noteworthy for his many achievements and innovations, his dedication to the historic role of the Library and its unique relationship to Congress, and, most importantly, his extraordinary vision of what the Library could become. Through his work, Jim has made unparalleled contributions to enhance the role that American culture plays in our national life.

On this special anniversary, I commend him for all that he has accomplished. I am especially grateful for the support and wise counsel he has given to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As Librarian of Congress, he has served as a member of the board of trustees for the center for two decades, and has been a source of consistent leadership and guidance throughout that time.

All of us in Congress owe Jim Billington an immense debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service, and we look forward to many more years of his leadership. On this 20th anniversary of his becoming Librarian of Congress, I join my colleagues in extending my warmest congratulations and deepest appreciation for his achievements.●

TRIBUTE TO HOWRIGAN FARM

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend longtime friends, Harold and Anne Howrigan and their sons of Fairfield, VT, whose farm was recently named 2007 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year.

Harold, his wife Anne and their sons operate two farms comprised of more than 500 head of holstein cattle and some 1,800 acres of cropland and forest, including a significant maple sugaring operation. The Howrigan farm was se-

lected by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Dairy Industry Association, who described it as an excellent, well managed dairy operation which consistently produces high-quality milk. With some of the farm acreage in the family since the mid 19th Century, the Howrigan family indeed exemplifies a long-term commitment to agriculture.

As much as he loves the home farm, over the years Harold has spent considerable time away from the farm serving Vermont agriculture. He has served as president of the Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Federation of Cooperatives and as a director with both the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association and the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council. Harold has served on the St. Albans Cooperative board of directors since 1981 and as president from 1988 until stepping down in 2005.

At one time or another, Harold was chairperson of the Vermont Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Commission, chair of the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives and chair of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. He also served on the U.S. Dairy Export Council and the National Milk Producers Federation.

With this level of engagement in the interest of dairy farmers and their industry, it is a tribute to Harold, Anne and their sons to earn this distinguished award. I join my fellow Vermonters in recognizing a Vermont dairy farm—and family—with its tradition of hard work, common sense and love of agriculture as the 2007 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year.●

CONGRATULATING THE GLADSTONE ALL-STAR GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Gladstone All-Star 11-12 Girls Softball Team on placing third in the Little League Softball World Series. Their determined and focused efforts throughout the postseason, which began in early July with the district tournament in Escanaba, have brought a lot of joy and pride to the Gladstone community. I am happy to have this opportunity to recognize this impressive achievement.

Gladstone capped a marvelous season with a thrilling come-from-behind 5-2 victory over an excellent team from Waterford, CT. The game was tightly contested throughout and was not decided until the first extra inning when Gladstone rallied to score the deciding three runs in the top of the seventh inning to secure a hard fought win. Gladstone displayed resilience in recovering from a loss the previous day to the eventual runner-up from Elgin, TX, to record this victory. It takes poise, determination, and teamwork to achieve this level of success, and I congratulate each member of the team on the way